MARCH

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, March 15
TIME: 7:30 p.m. and again at approximately 8:40 p.m.
PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium
SPEAKER: Dr. George E. Lindsay
SUBJECT: "BAJA CALIFORNIA"

This 760-mile long peninsula, mountainous and sparsely inhabited, separated from the mainland of Mexico by the Gulf of California, has for decades been an object of prime interest for both the San Diego Natural History Museum and the Academy. In his former capacity as Director for the first named, and in his current same capacity for the latter, Dr. Lindsay figures that altogether he has spent a minimum of two years exploring this remote but fascinating region. He has ridden over it on mules, donkeys and in cars (he drove the length in 1937 in a Model A Ford). He has sailed in and around and about it on various vessels and flown over it innumerable times. For these years, he has not only been interested in the natural history of the region but also, avocationally, in both the mission and political. All of these will be the subjects of this evening's lecture.

This hour-long examination of our neighbor to the south will be illustrated with color transparencies. As indicated above, the Director will present his talk twice during the evening.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS — FACT OR FANTASY?" begins March 1 in the Theatre of the Stars and will remain through April 30. This highly controversial topic continues to be the subject for television shows, motion pictures, best-selling books, wire photos and dinner table conversation. It promises to be equally diverting in a sky show in the planetarium—a quite proper place to present it. Do you believe that flying saucers *really* exist?

Performances daily at 2:00 p.m. with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30. Extra matinees on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, $1.00; Children, 50c.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"EXPEDITION!", a documentary film in color photographed by Academy scientists in the field, is shown exclusively at the Academy on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 12:45, 2:15, and 3:45 p.m. Admission: Adults, $1.00. Children, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

From the Academy Collections: "NARWHAL TUSK", a six-foot specimen which once graced an Arctic cetacean. This rarity is a gift to the Academy from Miss Louise A. Boyd, a former Trustee. Main Foyer, Hall of Science.

"CAMOUFLAGE IN NATURE", arresting photographs of some of nature's ingenious masqueraders, continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. These are the work of Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of Entomology.

NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF MOTORING in western Africa, Dr. Edward S. Ross and his party returned to the Academy in late January from the most recent "insect safari." It was the latest segment of Dr. Ross' life-long odyssey in quest of Embioptera (strange web-spinning insects). This effort will add much to his world-scope monograph which has been enriched by visits to many other regions of the world.

The party, which originally included Mrs. Ross, son Clark (he returned early), and Kenneth Lorenzen, a student assistant, left San Francisco June 17 of last year for Liberia. Though, as the accompanying map indicates, a full range of African life-zones was traversed in a special safari van, the main field effort was made in the rain forests of the Cameroons, one of the basic evolutionary centers of Africa. However, while north of the equator, the party experienced a wide variety of scene—from Saharan sands and gravels and seasonally-arid savannas to the almost perpetually wet Guinean rain forest fringing the west central coast of Africa.

After the Cameroons, the group "ferried" by freighter from Douala to Luanda, Angola. From here, they worked inland almost to the Congo border, then turned southwest to the northern end of the Namib Desert with its most peculiar desert vegetation such as the ancient, sprawling *Welwitschia* — as strange a plant as can be imagined. This desert was

one of the most interesting places visited. Bounded on the west by the Atlantic's Benguela current, it extends some 800 miles southward. In an almost rainless area, dampened only by fog on its western edge, are found marvelous adaptations for desert existence. Notable are webfoot geckos, strange dune beetles, and legless lizards which seem to almost swim through the sand.

From here, it was south to Capetown and too-brief enjoyment of the southern hemisphere summer which, of course, occurs during our winter. Before returning to the U.S., the well-traveled truck, which also served in previous trips to Asia, Australia and Mexico, was "stabled" in a Capetown garage to await the next skirmish into more odd and interesting regions of Africa.

The collections, numbering some one-quarter million, are returning to the Academy by sea. Not only are Embioptera and other insects included, but also snails, reptiles, amphibians, spiders and scorpions which would fit into available bottles and boxes.

Dr. Ross, whose excellence as a photographer is well-known to the membership, returned with thousands of color transparencies and extensive movie footage. These are being edited for public exhibits and lectures as well as illustrations for popular and scientific publications.

A LITTLE-KNOWN BIT OF AMERICAN
has come to light in the malacological library be
queathed the Academy by the late Miss Ruth E
Coats (see NEWSLETTER, February 1967). In
cluded in the fine collection is a first edition of "Th
Conchologist's First Book: or, A System of Testace
ous Malacology" and the author is none other tha
Edgar Allan Poe. It was published in Philadelphi
in 1839 "for the author" by Haswell, Barrington, an
Haswell.

Experts conclude that undoubtedly the Preface an
Introduction were the work of Mr. Poe but believ
that the rest of the book was a publisher's plagiarism
of other works of the period; that some "promoter
took advantage of both Poe's name and financia
stress for personal gain. The little book will be house
eventually in the Lucie Stern Rare Book Room.

IT IS WITH REGRET that we mak
mention of the death of a former Assistant Curato
in the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy
Mrs. Mary Ellen Terry.

Mrs. Terry was first employed at the Academy i
1918 as check room assistant in North America
Hall. The following year she became a Library As
sistant. In 1921, she joined Ornithology and Mam
malogy as an assistant and subsequently becam

NEW SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PROCEEDINGS

"Determinants of Home Range in the Deer Mouse, Peromyscus leucopus." Walter Sheppe. Vol. XXXIV, No. 7. December 30, 1966 .....75c

"Burrowing Activities of the Scorpion Anuroctonus phaeodactylus (Wood) (Scorpionida: Vejovidae)." Stanley C. Williams. Vol. XXXIV, No. 8, December 30, 1966 .....25c

"Triggerfishes (Balistidae) of the Eastern Pacific." Frederick H. Berry and Wayne J. Baldwin. Vol. XXXIV, No. 9. December 30, 1966 .....$1.00

"The Blow Flies of the Galapagos Islands (Diptera: Calliphoridae)." Maurice T. James. Vol. XXXIV, No. 10. December 30, 1966 .....25c

"Otitidae from the Galapagos Islands. (Diptera: Acalyptratae)." George C. Steyskal. Vol. XXXIV, No. 11. December 30, 1966 .....35c

"A New Species of Embioptera from the Galapagos Islands." Edward S. Ross. Vol. XXXIV, No. 12. December 30, 1966 .....25c

"Development of a Deep-Sea Cushion Star, Pteraster tesselatus." Fu-Shiang Chia. Vol. XXXIV, No. 13. December 30, 1966 .....25c

Assistant Curator which she remained until her resignation in May 1936. Mrs. Terry died on January 4 at the age of 78.

MOST OF THE 136 Russian scientists and crew members of the *Mikhail Lomonosov* which docked in San Francisco on the weekend of January 20 enjoyed a guided tour of Steinhart Aquarium and witnessed a special showing in Morrison Planetarium. Their ship is a Soviet oceanography vessel whose home port is Vladivostok. The group has been doing research at sea for the past two months and was due to sail through the Panama Canal and to the Caribbean before returning home.

MEET THE STAFF

GLEN S. HAYDEN, employed in the Service Center of the Academy, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Cardington. After attending high schools at Bedford and Xenia, he joined the U.S. Air Force and saw domestic service for the following six years with the Air Training Command.

In 1954, he enrolled at Woodbury College in Los Angeles whose curricula combines business administration and art. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree, he moved temporarily to Arizona and employment at KOOL-TV in Phoenix, a job that covered most all facets of television from floor manging to cameraman.

In 1959, San Francisco beckoned and Glen found himself first with the Pioneer Appliance Co. and subsequently as Librarian with the S.F. Real Estate Board. In July 1962, he joined the staff of the CAS where he has been busily engaged since. His particular job in the Service Center is concerned with printing on the Multilith 1250 and the recently acquired Gestetner duplicator. Scientific papers, planetarium programs, bulk letters, plus a great miscellanea, occupy his days with their printing, folding, binding, trimming. He also is charged with keeping chaos out of the Publication's Room where a great mass of Academy documents is stored.

A variety of pursuits fill his off-duty time. He is fascinated with the investigation of psychic phenomena and esoteric philosophy, is a student of religion, is remodeling an old Victorian bungalow, and has recently personally published a volume entitled "Mended Wings", a book of metaphysical philosophy couched in the form of epigrams and aphorisms. The book was two years in the creation.

Glen plans on enrolling at San Francisco State College this spring with the idea of eventually acquiring a degree in psychology. This will be on a part-time basis. His employment at the CAS will continue.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

Regular Membership

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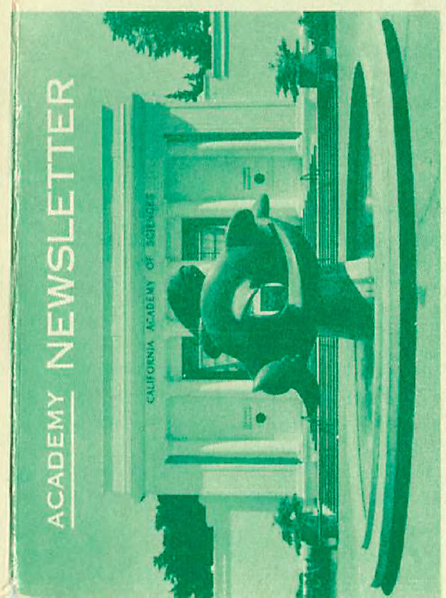

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